# The balancing act: balancing copyright and open access

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#### Introduction

- The digital age provides librarians with new opportunities & challenges
- Restrictive copyright policies can be a major obstacle to repository growth & development
- How do we balance everybody's interests?
- Libraries have an important role to play
- Focus: copyright issues of journal articles
- Copyright of theses & internal reports

"We can no longer afford to stand on the sidelines...We also need to educate ourselves about copyright issues so we can protect our own rights rather than signing them away"

 JoAnne Yates, Sloan Distinguished Professor of Management

# What is copyright law?

- A law is an enforceable set of public rules that govern society
- Copyright gives legal protection to the creators of "works of the mind"
- Copyright was designed:
  - Reward creators for their works
  - Encourage availability of the works
  - Facilitate access and use by the public

## Where do things go wrong?

- Creator (author/s) controls:
  - Reproduction (copies)
  - Distribution
- Copyright is an economic/property right
- Copyright can be assigned to 3<sup>rd</sup> party
- Authors assign copyright to publishers... for free
- Now the publisher owns/controls copyright
- Libraries as providers of information:
  - Cannot afford subscriptions to all journals
  - Yearly increases in journal prices

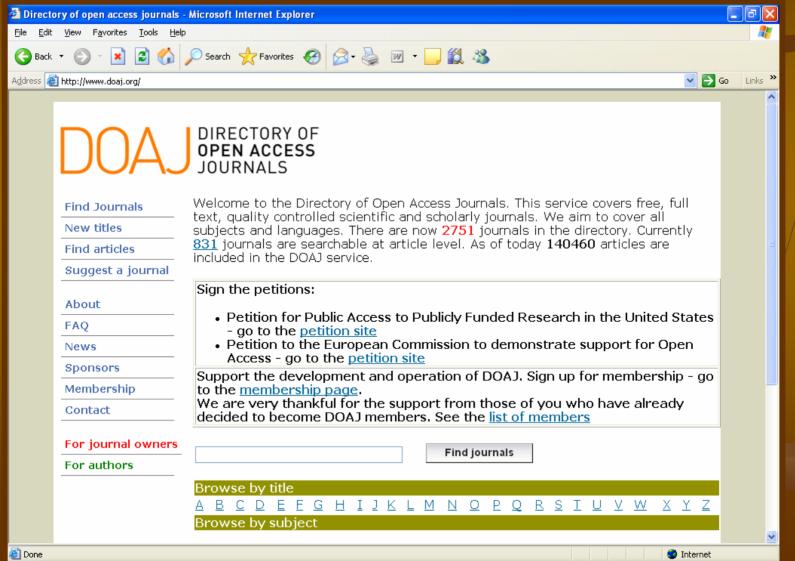
## Who holds the copyright?

- Articles not yet submitted to a journal (preprints) : author/s
- Authors sign a Copyright Transfer Agreement
- Published articles : publisher
- This is a legal contract
- If you do not hold the copyright....
- If you have not obtained permission...
- ...posting articles in a repository results in breaking the law!

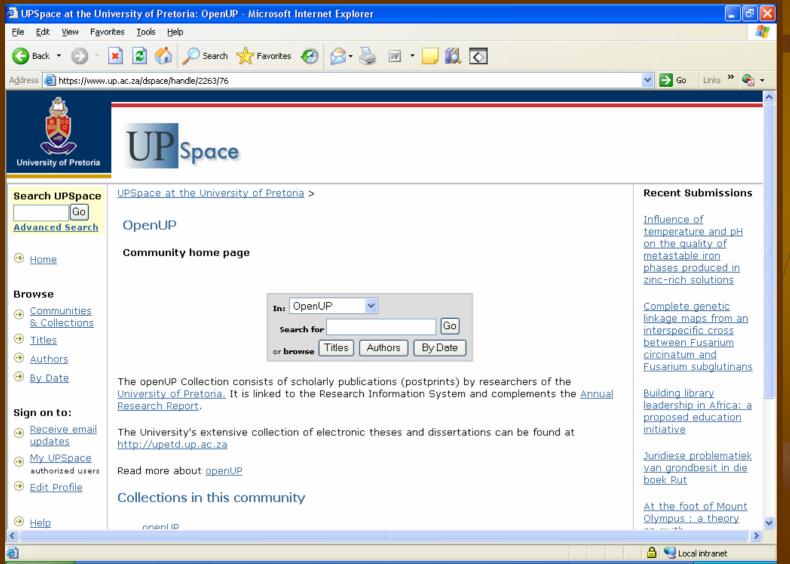
# What rights do authors usually sign away?

- The right to:
  - reuse an article as a chapter in a book
  - to revise or adapt an article
  - distribute an article to colleagues
  - reproduce copies of an article for teaching purposes
  - self-archive/make available an article in an online repository
- BUT: signing a Copyright Transfer Agreement does not always mean that authors have NO rights

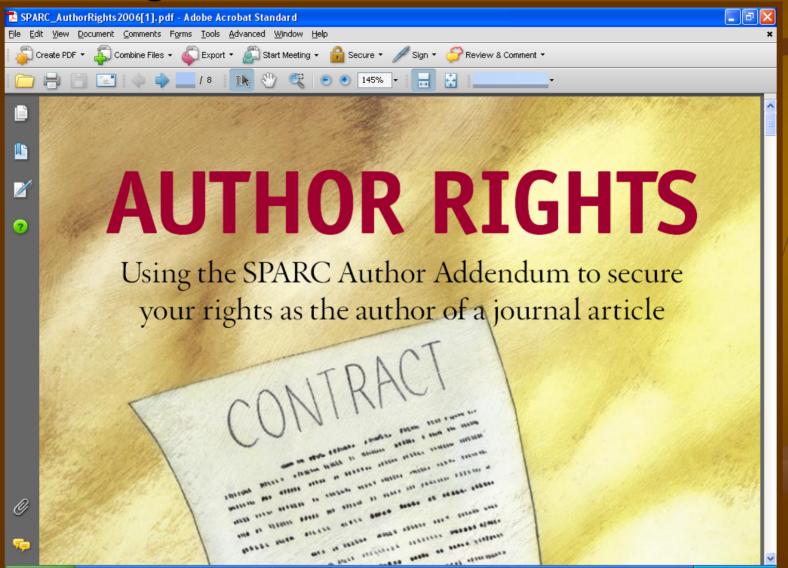
# What can authors do? Publish in open access journals (gold)



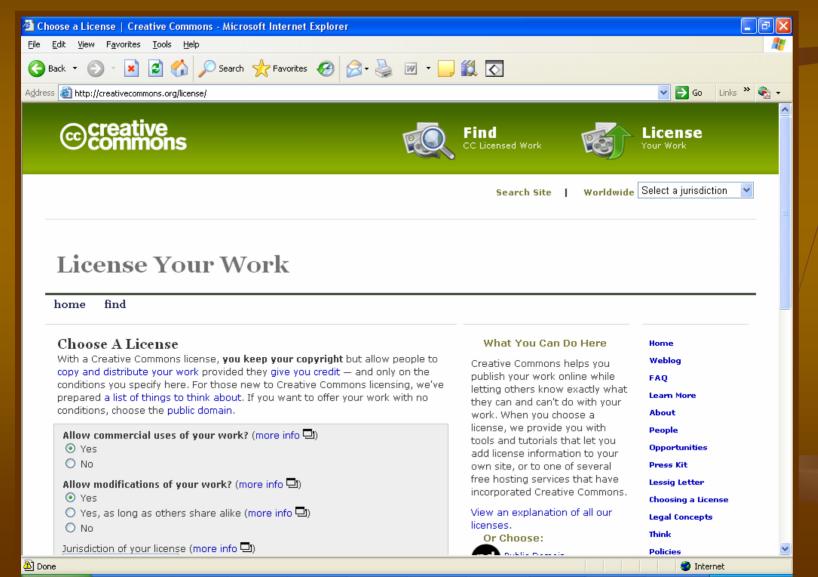
# What can authors do? Archive articles in a repository (green)



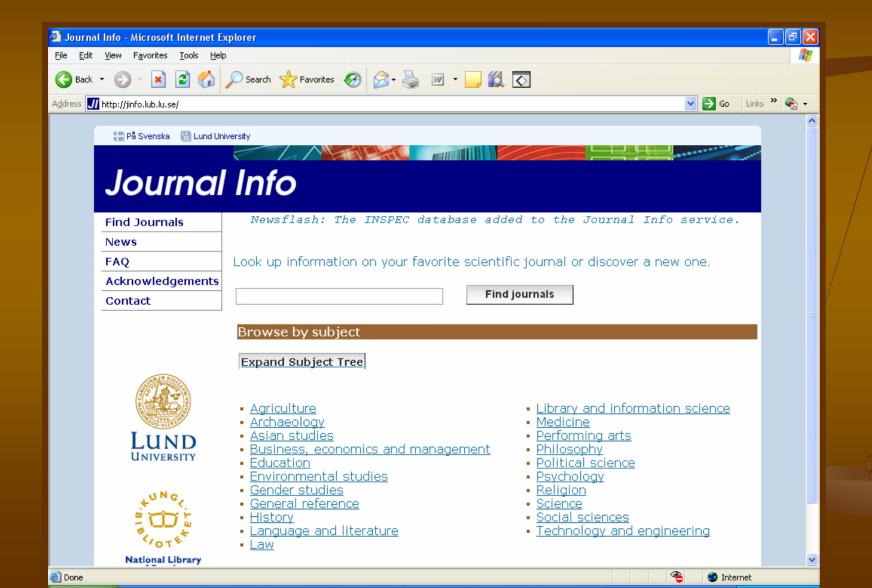
# What can authors do? Negotiate / amend contract



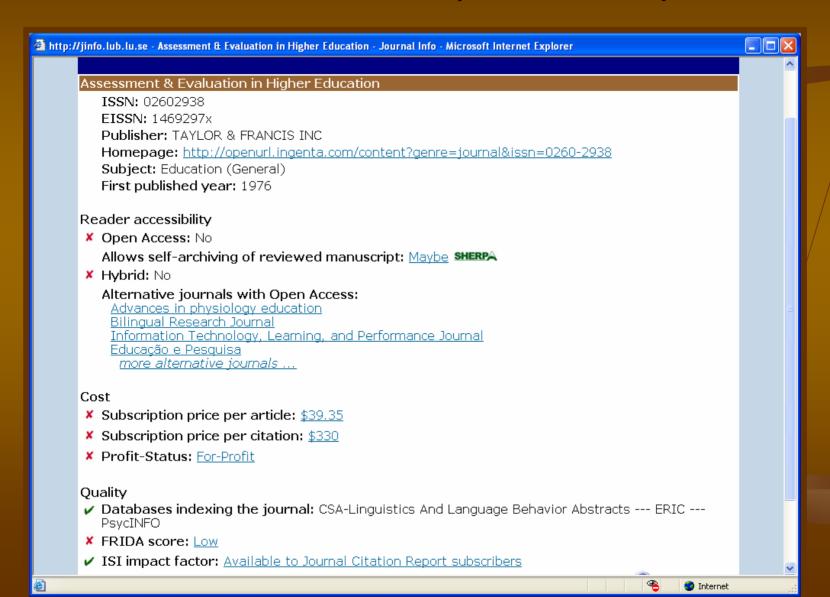
# What can authors do? Creative Commons license



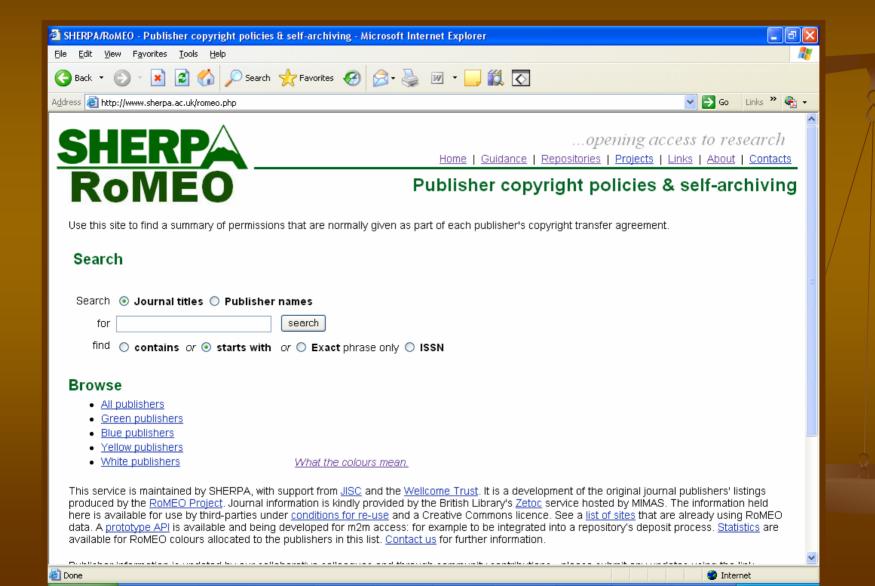
#### Who can assist? Journal Info



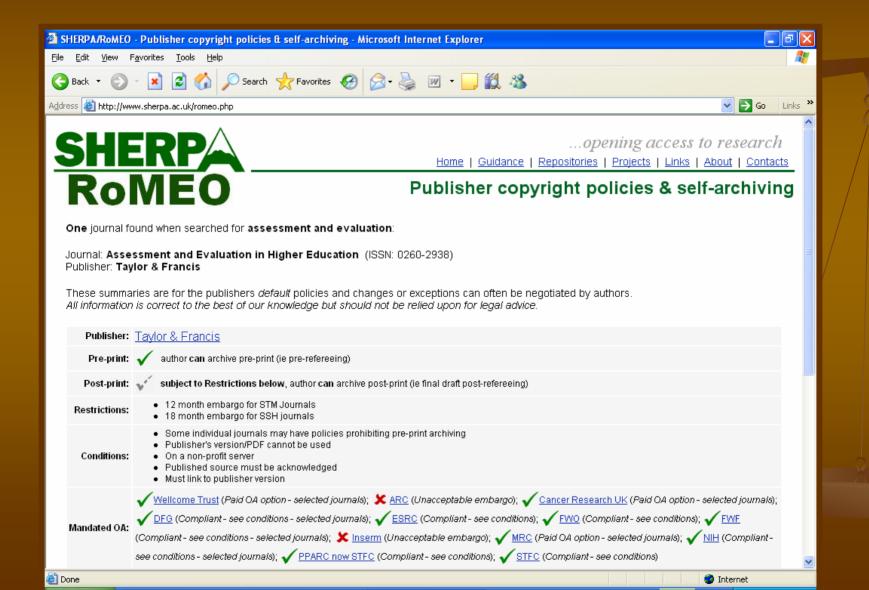
# Journal info(rmation)



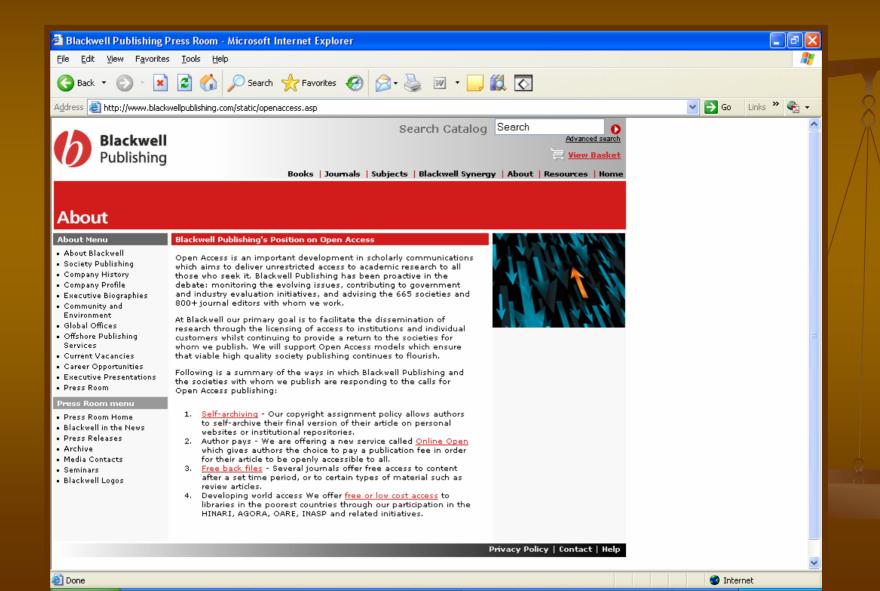
#### Who can assist? SHERPA/RoMEO



### Journal conditions for archiving



#### Who can assist? Publisher's web sites



#### What can be archived?

- Publisher pdf versions are mostly prohibited
  - Publishers hold formatting rights
- Postprints mostly allowed (90%)
  - Final, peer-reviewed, corrected version
  - Problem authors rarely hold possession of final version
  - Changes are made in final publishing stages
  - Author's final version often inaccurate
  - Quality control serious issue
  - Embargoes (Blackwell 2 years)
- Some publishers totally forbid making the full text available (Mary Ann Liebert)

# What about the preprints?

- Publishers have opposing views
- Some will allow it on condition that these items are clearly specified as preprints
- Others prohibit "prior publication" (white)
- Problem quality issue

#### What about restrictions?

- Fear to infringe copyright
- Read and interpret the conditions carefully!
- Restrictions are not always clear / misinterpreted
- Terminology can be confusing

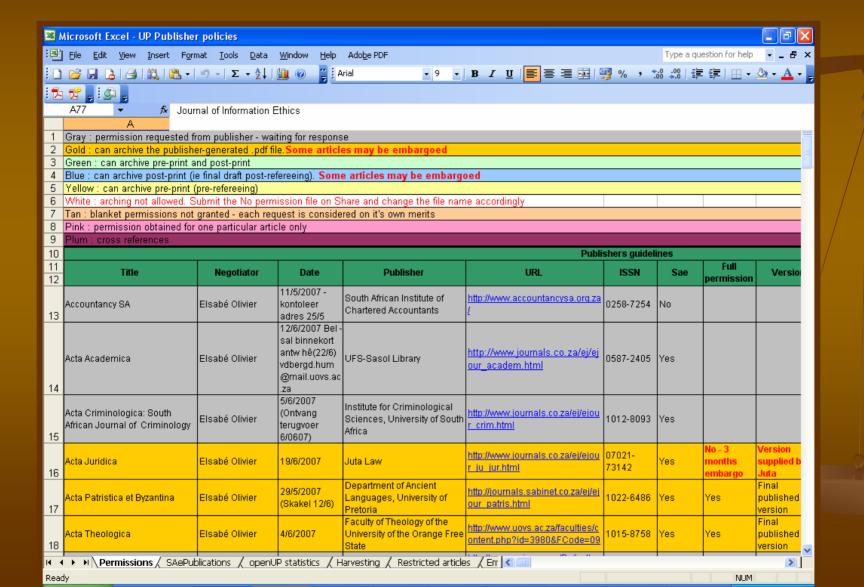
### Should we adhere to copyright?

- Complicated issue
- Opposing views regarding copyright
- Copyright legislation can be an obstacle
- Follow the example of University of Glasgow, University of Nottingham, Oxford University, Royal Holloway, St Andrews University, Universities of Leeds, Sheffield & York
- Ask for forgiveness vs Earning trust
- You / your institution should decide

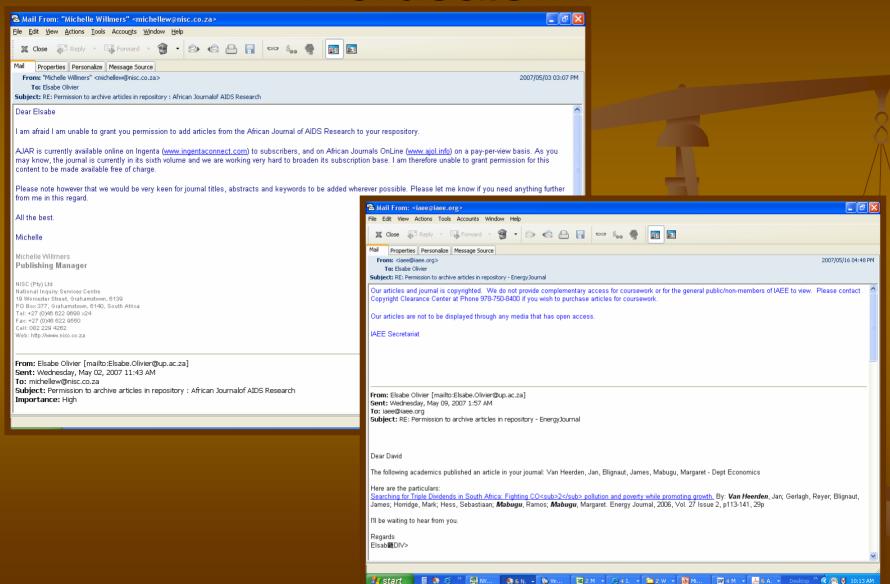
## What about SA publishers?

- openUP adheres to publishers' copyright policies
- openUP checks copyright agreements beforehand
- Most SA publishers are not listed in SHERPA/RoMEO
- openUP contacts the publisher directly via email
- Standard letter & permission form
- Started with UP journals
- Our vision: a SA RoMEO?

# UP journal list – 151 titles



#### Refusals...



### What are our suggestions?

- Authors should be informed of consequences of signing away copyright
- Institutional copyright statement
- Role of the NRF & other funding bodies
  - Compulsory submission?
- Opposition can really make a difference...
- Lack of cooperation in freeing copyright in SA
- Let's lobby together to bring along change
- SA SHERPA/RoMEO

#### In conclusion

- Visibility for SA research needs to be increased
- Librarians
  - Important advocates for open access
  - Can play a role in incorporating research in international knowledge pool
  - Can provide leadership
- Educate yourself on copyright and play your part in this balancing act!

#### Links

- Creative Commons http://creativecommons.org/
- Directory of Open Access Journals <a href="http://www.doaj.org/">http://www.doaj.org/</a>
- eIFL-IP Advocacy for Access to knowledge: copyright and libraries www.eifl.net
- Journal Info <a href="http://jinfo.lub.lu.se/">http://jinfo.lub.lu.se/</a>
- Scholarly Communication: What's happening at MIT?
   <a href="http://libraries.mit.edu/about/scholarly/mit.html">http://libraries.mit.edu/about/scholarly/mit.html</a>
- SHERPA/RoMEO http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.php
- SPARC author addendum
   <a href="http://www.arl.org/sparc/author/addendum.html">http://www.arl.org/sparc/author/addendum.html</a>

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